

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 NIC-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SY-10

OPR-02 NEA-11 PC-04 DRC-01 /186 W

----- 003374

R 121330Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2349

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MZ

SUBJECT: FURTHER FRELIMO ACTION NEAR INHAMINGA

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 44 AND 57

1. MOZAMBIQUE AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT FRELIMO GUERRILLA ACTION IN INHAMINGA REGION OF BEIRA DISTRICT. NOTICIAS OF FEBRUARY 12 REPORTS AMBUSH ON FEBRUARY 10 AT 1700 HOURS ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS FROM A QUARRY NEAR MUANZA, 100 KILOMETERS NORTH OF BEIRA ON THE ROAD TO INHAMINGA. MANAGER OF THE QUARRY WAS KILLED AND HIS WIFE DIED LATER OF HEART ATTACK. TWO OTHER PERSONS WERE WOUNDED.

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WM JOHANNESBURG STAR OF FEBRUARY 9 REPORTED ASSAULT ON ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF HOUSE IN INHAMINGA. ATTACK BEATEN OFF AND NO CASUALTIES REPORTED. SAME ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS FOUR PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN AMBUSH NEAR INHAMITANGA (20 KILOMETERS NORTH OF INHAMINGA).

3. STAR FEBRUARY 6 REPORTS TWO FRELIMO GUERRILLAS KILLED WHEN GROUP OF ABOUT 20 TRIED TO AMBUSH CIVIL ADMINISTRATION JEEP ABOUT 27 KILOMETERS FROM INHAMINGA. ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS ON FEBRUARY 3 ADMINISTRATION DRIVER WAS KILLED BY MACHINE GUN FIRE 20 KILOMETERS FROM INHAMINGA AFTER HE HAD GONE TO THE AID OF BROKEN DOWN VEHICLE.

4. RHODESIA HERALD FEBRUARY 4 REPORTS PORTUGUESE MECHANIC WAS GUNNED DOWN AND HIS JEEP SET ON FIRE BY ARMED FRELIMO GANG 6 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF INHAMINGA. ARTICLE DESCRIBED THIS AS 18TH TERROR INCIDENT ALONG BEIRA TO MALAWI RAILWAY LINE SINCE NEW YEAR'S EVE.

5. RECENT INCIDENTS IN OTHER PARTS OF BEIRA DISTRICT INCLUDE AMBUSH ON MILITARY ESCORTED CONVOY NEAR MUNGARI 350 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF BEIRA IN WHICH 6 PERSONS INCLUDING EUROPEAN WOMAN AND CHILD WERE INJURED. IN LATE JANUARY GUERRILLAS REPORTEDLY ALSO ATTACKED MEAT TRUCK RETURNING FROM CAMP NEAR NHAMACALA (50 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF INHAMINGA) KILLING ONE MILITIA, WOUNDING DRIVER AND ANOTHER MILITIA.

6. COMMENT: WE EXPECT FURTHER INFORMATION ON EVENTS IN BEIRA AT OUR NEXT MILITARY BRIEFING ON FEBRUARY 14. HOWEVER, LITTLE DOUBT THAT THIS LATEST OUTBURST OF FRELIMO ACTIVITY IS HAVING INTENSE EFFECT ON POPULACE, MAINLY BECAUSE EVENTS ARE TAKING PLACE WITHIN REACH OF BEIRA, THE SECOND LARGEST CITY IN THE COUNTRY. ON OTHER HAND, APPREHENSION IN THE VILA PEREIRA DE MANICA AREA APPEARS TO HAVE DIED DOWN SOMEWHAT. FARMERS AND THEIR WIVES HAVE BEEN ISSUED WEAPONS, HAVE FORTIFIED THEIR HOUSES AND APPEAR DETERMINED TO DEFEND THEIR LIVES AND PROPERTY. SPECIAL GROUPS (GES) AND FLECHAS HAVE BEEN SENT INTO THE AREA. AS RESULT GUERRILLA ACTIVITY SEEMS TO HAVE SUBSIDED. THE FRELIMO TACTIC OF INCREASED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESSURE ON THE WHITE FARMING COMMUNITY IS APPARENTLY CALCULATED TO THROW STRAIN ON PORTUGUESE POLICY OF RADICAL HARMONY. PORTUGUESE FARMERS ARE EXPECTED TO RETALIATE FIERCELY AGAINST ATTACK, AND IF PROVOKED, COULD ENGAGE IN

EXCESSES SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH TOOK PLACE IN EARLY DAYS OF THE INSURGENCY, IN ANGOLA WHEN THE WHITE POPULACE REACTED TO THE INITIAL MASSACRES PERPETRATED BY GUERRILLAS. ANY

SUCH EXCESSES WOULD OF COURSE BE UTILIZED TO FULL BY
FREIMO PROPAGANDA MACHINE AND WOULD FURTHER WEAKEN PORTUGAL'S
INTERNATIONAL POSITION.
VAN OSS

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